



EDITORIAL by Klaus Jacob and Anna-Lena Guske (FU Berlin)

Models are increasingly used in European Impact Assessment, but the potentials are still not fully utilized. An analysis of the more than 800 IA reports published on the IA website of the European Commission (<http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/>) between 2003 and 2013 revealed a steady increase in the use of models. However, the analysis also shows that there are considerable differences between the different DGs. Furthermore, the analysis reveals that the wider research reservoir of available models is not utilized to its full potential. The majority of frequently used models is described in the LIAISE Toolbox, but a large number of available models have not been used so far. The main findings of the analysis are:

- In 144 (out of 805) IA reports, the application of models has been reported.
- The share of IA reports that mention the application of models in the IA process increased over time.
- Especially DG Climate Action, DG Environment, DG Energy, as well as DG Transport and Mobility, report on model use frequently.
- Models that have been used frequently include: PRIMES (33 IAs), TREMOVE (20 IAs), GEM-E3, POLES (13 IAs), QUEST, GAINS (11 IAs) and ASTRA (6 IAs).
- 19 out of the 144 applied models were described in the LIAISE Toolbox (overall there are 91 models represented in the LIAISE Toolbox).
- 6 out of the 8 most frequently used models are described in the LIAISE Toolbox (PRIMES, TREMOVE, GEM-E3, POLES, QUEST, ASTRA).

The application of models in EU IA that are described in the LIAISE Toolbox has been added to the respective model description. This should further facilitate the selection of models from the LIAISE Toolbox as these previous applications allow an assessment on the context in which models can be applied. More details of the analysis can be found in the LIAISE toolbox: <http://beta.liaise-toolbox.eu/content/use-toolbox-models-eu-ia>



All the items marked with this icon are related to LIAISE Offspring: Early Career Scientists Support Forum

LIAISE News

• LIAISE Impact Assessment Training for Desk Officers

In July and September 2013 the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FUB) conducted two one-day trainings on policy Impact Assessment (IA), particularly on methods for IA. Participants were policy-makers from different ministries, agencies as well as consultants to learn about, discuss and exemplarily apply various methods to support policy IAs. The two workshop events were inter alia held to test a format for further training activities and capacity building on policy IA as part of LIAISE WP7.

• LIAISE Offspring Workshop "Impact Assessment: Methods for Evidence-Based Policy-Making and their Contexts of Use"

The LIAISE Offspring Network organised a workshop for early-career researchers on "Methods for Evidence-Based Policy-Making and their Contexts of Use", which was held on 17-18 October, 2013 close to Berlin. The workshop brought together 20 Early Career Researchers (ECRs), working in the field of science-policy interfaces (e.g. policy impact assessment (IA), IA methods, evidence-based policy-making). It aimed at offering a forum for interdisciplinary exchange on how to make policy-oriented research policy-relevant.

Publications from the LIAISE network

• The Use, Non-use and Misuse of Indicators in Sustainability Assessment and Communication

Sustainability assessments and indicators aim to produce and communicate information needed for evidence-based policymaking, strategic planning or learning. The authors propose a comprehensive typology summarising different forms of sustainability indicator usage, namely use, non-use and misuse. This typology helps to identify potential positive or negative side effects of indicator usage.

• A Toolbox for Impact Assessment and Sustainability

To support the IA process, the European research LIAISE project is developing a Toolbox which is simultaneously accessible and useful for policy makers as well as for the research community. The Toolbox provides an interactive library of models, publications, projects, good practices, experts, etc. to support IAs. Special emphasis has been given to enable access to adding and editing information.

• Integrating Health & Environmental Impact Analysis

The authors see the continuing failure to truly integrate human health and environmental impact analysis as deeply damaging, and they propose a new conceptual model, the ecosystems-enriched Drivers, Pressures, State, Exposure, Effects, Actions or 'eDPSEEA' model, to address this shortcoming. The model recognizes convergence between the concept of ecosystems services which provides a human health and well-being slant to the value of ecosystems while equally emphasizing the health of the environment, and the growing calls for 'ecological public health' as a response to global environmental concerns now suffusing the discourse in public health.

• Assessing Planetary and Regional Nitrogen Boundaries Related to Food Security and Adverse Environmental Impacts

This paper describes the concept of -, governance interest in- and criticism on planetary boundaries, specifically with respect to the nitrogen (N) cycle. The authors suggest an holistic approach for an updated planetary N boundary by considering the need to: (i) avoid adverse impacts of elevated Nr emissions to water, air and soils, and (ii) feed the world population in an adequate way.

Events&Calls

• Methodologies and Indicators for Green Growth Measurement

On November 12th 2013, FEEM is pleased to host among its speakers Marianne Fay from the World Bank and Paul Schreyer from OECD. The main objective of the conference is to assess the state of the art in quantitative measurement of sustainability, connecting theoretical background, practical assessment and

policy perspectives. Note that a streaming service will also be available, if you are interested please write an email to events@feem.it

- **[Transformation of Global Agrifood Systems: Gobaal Food Symposium 2014](#)**

The GlobalFood Program at the University of Göttingen carries out research along these lines in collaboration with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and other partners. As part of this Program, the Second GlobalFood Symposium, will be held on 25-26 April 2014 in Göttingen (Germany). The aim of this Symposium is to discuss new research findings and policy challenges related to the global agri-food system transformation.

- **[5th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists \(WCERE\)](#)**

The 5th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists (WCERE) will take place in Istanbul, Turkey, from 28 June - 2 July, 2014. You are invited to submit theoretical and empirical papers in all areas of environmental and natural resource economics for presentation at the World Congress (deadline 15 January, 2014). Please, also note the call for thematic and policy sessions: the deadline for the submission of proposals is 1 December, 2013.

- **[Fifth Earth System Governance Project Conference "Access and Allocation in the Anthropocene"](#)**

The fifth global conference organized by the Earth System Governance Project on "Access and Allocation in the Anthropocene" will be held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK, from 1-3 July, 2014. Abstract submissions are invited until 15 November, 2013. Abstracts should address the conference themes "Access and Allocation of Resources (Water, Food, Energy, Health and Wellbeing, Forests and Carbon Rights)" and/or "Transformative Pathways to Sustainability".



Policies

- **[Bioenergy Production Must Use Resources More Efficiently Says EEA](#)**

The EU has the potential to produce a little over half the amount of bioenergy previously estimated, according to a new report published by the European Environment Agency (EEA) on 3 July 2013. The report, EU Bioenergy from a Resource Efficiency Perspective, primarily looks at the potential for energy from agricultural land, but also includes forest and waste biomass in the overall analysis. The report revises a 2006 forecast that 4,000 petajoules could be produced in 2020, to around 2,300 PJ. The revised estimate is still enough to meet national renewables targets, but reflects logistical and economic constraints that were not previously considered. The new forecast also takes into account the 2009 renewables directive and action plans adopted by Member States, the effect of which has been to restrict the most efficient uses of biomass, such as producing heat, in favour of transport fuels.

- **[New Evidence That EU Soil Biodiversity is Under Threat](#)**

Soil biodiversity may be under threat to varying degrees in 56% of EU territory, according to new research from the Joint Research Centre (JRC), published on 3 September. Intensive agriculture is the biggest threat, followed by carbon loss, invasive species, erosion and contamination. The potential threat calculations are based on the soil biodiversity pressure index, using data from the European Soil Data Centre (ESDAC) and other European databases. The study was done in support of the European Commission's 2006 thematic strategy on tackling soil degradation. Systematic monitoring and protection of soil quality in Europe is still not in place, five years after the thematic strategy was adopted.

- **[New EU Forest Strategy Unveiled](#)**

On 20 September, the European Commission released a much-awaited policy framework for forestry that attempts to balance increasing demand for wood with sustainability goals, and bring more coherence into a fragmented policy area. According to the strategy, by 2020 Member States will have to demonstrate that all forests are sustainably managed, with reference to 'objective', 'ambitious' criteria that the Commission has undertaken to develop by 2015, and that will apply to different policy contexts.

- **[Latest IPCC Report on Physical Science of Climate Change](#)**

It is now 95% certain that humans have been the 'dominant cause' of the rise in temperatures since the 1950s, according to the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The report, Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis, was released by the Panel's Working Group 1 on 27 September. It is the first of four reports that together will form the Panel's Fifth Assessment Report in 2014.



Training

- **[Managing Risk and Hazards in the Face of Natural Disaster](#)**

Climate change impacts pose a real and considerable threat to communities living in hot-spots of vulnerability to extreme meteorological and hydrological events. Disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation both aim to reduce the vulnerability of such communities and achieve sustainable development. This 2 weeks course aims to strengthen the capacity for coping with natural disasters and improving resilience and disaster preparedness, by integrating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

- **[International Farming Systems Association 2014 PhD Course](#)**

The International Farming Systems Association IFSA announces its 2014 PhD Course, to be held in Berlin, Germany on 30 March - 5 April 2014. The course will be held in connection to the 11th IFSA Symposium and draw on the gathering of specialists and researchers within this field. It addresses farming system research in the areas of farming, food, rural areas and environment in the context of the increasingly multifaceted complexity of issues of sustainability and climate change.



Links

- **[BASE European Climate Adaptation Newsletter](#)**

The first issue of the biannual European Adaptation Newsletter of the EU funded FP7 project "Bottom-up Climate Adaptation Strategies for a Sustainable Europe" (BASE) is out. The newsletter will provide you with information about the latest research and activities from the BASE project as well as with climate adaptation news and events from across Europe. The first issue includes information on the flooding in Central Europe in June, on adaptation dialogues at the German Baltic Coast, the New EU Climate Adaptation Strategy and about the BASE project.

- **[Scheme for the Comparative Analysis of Public Environmental Decision-making \(SCAPE\)](#)**

The Research Group on Governance, Participation and Sustainability at Leuphana University Lüneburg, Germany, announces the publication of its 'Scheme for the Comparative Analysis of Public Environmental Decision-making' (SCAPE). This is now available online. The development of this analytical scheme has proceeded over several years of intensive research, discussions and application in various projects. The scheme has now been successfully applied to more than 150 coded case studies, and the group encourages fellow researchers to test, critique and improve it.

- **[Climate Change: New Report on Research Priorities](#)**

The Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) has released a new report on "Research Priorities on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation: Responding to the Climate Change Challenge". The global research priorities presented in this report were identified through a thorough consultation process with experts and policymakers, and are intended to serve as guidance to researchers, donor groups and other stakeholders.



Jobs & Funding

Please visit our website for opportunities in the field of Impact Assessment and Sustainable Development. You are invited to send your vacancies, research programs, events or other relevant content to liaise@feem.it



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